

News Release
U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Rhode Island



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Providence man is sentenced to 195 months in prison for drug and firearms offenses

A federal judge has sentenced **Anthony Lipscomb** to 195 months in prison for cocaine trafficking and firearms offenses. Lipscomb pulled out a 9-millimeter pistol last December while struggling with a Providence Police officer who was trying to arrest him on a drug-trafficking charge.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith imposed today in U.S. District Court, Providence.

Lipscomb was convicted after a trial in October 2005. During the trial, Assistant U.S. Attorneys Stephen G. Dambruch and Mary E. Rogers presented evidence that, on December 30, 2004, a Providence Police detective approached Lipscomb outside an auto repair shop on Carpenter Street. Lipscomb ignored the detective's call to stop, started to flee, and discarded a plastic bag.

Detective Joseph Colanduono chased Lipscomb and briefly grabbed hold of him. While in the detective's grasp, Lipscomb drew a 9-millimeter pistol from his waistband and tossed it away. He broke free but detectives caught up with him and arrested him after a struggle.

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The plastic bag that Lipscomb had tossed away contained about 40 grams of crack cocaine. The gun that he had tossed was loaded and had a round in the chamber.

Judge Smith sentenced Lipscomb to 135 months for drug trafficking and being a felon in possession of a firearm and to an additional 60 months for possessing a firearm during a drug trafficking offense. Lipscomb has four prior felony drug convictions.

The **Providence Police Narcotics and Organized Crime Bureau**, the **Drug Enforcement Administration**, and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives** participated in the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Dambruch and Rogers prosecuted the case as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with Providence Police, ATF, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal firearms prosecutions in Rhode Island have more than doubled and gun offenders have been sentenced to a total of more than 750 years in federal prison.

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